

Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of The Association for Perioperative Practice

Registered Charity No: 1118444

**Held on Wednesday, 30 September 2026, at 7:00 PM
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1. Opening Remarks

Alex Duke (AD), Chief Executive, opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the 61st Annual General Meeting. It was confirmed that the required number of regions were represented and that the meeting was quorate.

AD confirmed that total membership stood at 5,626, comprising 4,928 paying members and 698 free student members. Members were reminded that only individual members were entitled to vote. Corporate members could attend but could not vote. Voting would take place through on-screen polls, with results displayed and confirmed by the Chair. Members wishing to ask a question were asked to use the virtual raise-hand function.

2. Apologies of Absence

Apologies were received from Craig Griffiths and John Biddle, Elected Trustees, and Georgia Headley, Non-elected Trustee.

3. President's Report

Oliver Tierney (OT) thanked AD and presented his report for the year ended 31 March 2026. He reflected on a year of continued change across healthcare and confirmed that AfPP had remained focused on supporting members, advancing perioperative practice and promoting safe, high-quality patient care.

OT reported that membership remained central to the Association. AfPP had maintained an engaged community while welcoming new members and saying farewell to others through retirement or changing circumstances. He confirmed that the Association would continue to listen to members and adapt its services to provide relevant value throughout their careers.

Education and professional development remained a priority. OT highlighted the creation and launch of the AfPP Behaviours Charter, which had received national endorsement from the Centre for Perioperative Care (COPC) and Civility Saves Lives, together with international endorsement from the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN). Work was progressing on an associated teaching programme. AfPP had also delivered conferences, study days, webinars, specialist symposiums and the Annual National Conference at the University of Warwick.

OT emphasised the importance of collaboration. AfPP had continued to work with professional bodies, healthcare stakeholders, policymakers and international partners. Its involvement included the Centre for Perioperative Care, and the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses. He also noted the reformation of the Perioperative Care Collaborative (PCC), with a focus on standardising practice in advanced roles and protecting staff and patients.

AfPP had continued to advocate for the recognition of perioperative professionals and to contribute to discussions on workforce development, patient safety, professional standards and future service delivery. Looking ahead, the Association would remain focused on supporting members, strengthening standards, advancing education and promoting excellence in perioperative care.

OT concluded by thanking the Board, regional teams, volunteers, members, partners and HQ staff for their commitment and contribution.

4. Adopt the Minutes of the 60th AGM held on 24 September 2025

The Minutes of the 60th AfPP AGM had been available online and by mail on request. No comments or amendments were raised. Louise Dye (LD) proposed, and Will Windsor (WW) seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

AD thanked OT and presented her report for the year ended 31 March 2026. She described AfPP's 61st year as one of considerable activity and reported a consolidated surplus of £3,000 against a budgeted deficit of £75,000, a favourable movement of £78,000. This reflected careful cost control and responsible management, although some of the difference related to timing.

Membership remained a significant challenge. At 31 March 2026, AfPP had 4,971 paid members, excluding free student members, compared with 5,398 at the previous year end. Paying membership had fallen by 427, while student membership had increased by 138 to 765. Membership income was below budget. In response, the membership team had been restructured to provide separate recruitment and retention focuses, the member journey and joining process had been reviewed, and more detailed career-stage information was being collected to support relevant communications and services. Early signs indicated an improvement in the rate of decline.

Continuous card payments had been introduced for members paying by credit card. A free digital version of Standards and Recommendations had also been included within membership, alongside the associated subscription increase.

Events and education remained a strength. The Annual National Conference at the University of Warwick generated a surplus of £111,500, which was £11,000 above budget. It brought together 347 delegates, 18 volunteers and nine Board members. Ten regional conferences attracted 693 delegates, and specialist symposiums on robotics and emergencies and trauma were launched. Webinar delivery increased from seven to 18 webinars, attracting 2,180 registrations and 1,397 live attendees, with further registrations for on-demand content.

Education capacity was strengthened through the appointment of a new Head of Clinical. Work on stakeholder and career journeys supported education modules linked to the Behaviours Charter and contributed to the #notjusta campaign, launched at the 2026 Annual National Conference.

The Professional Advice Service supported 185 members with confidential cases, with policies, procedures, guidance, governance, employment and staffing among the main themes. Publications department continued to develop. The Journal of Perioperative

Practice retained a five-year impact factor of 1.1. AfPP also remembered Professor Harold Ellis and his longstanding contribution to the Journal.

Advertising and publication sales remained below expectations. The contract with Open Box Media ended at the conclusion of its term, and an in-house salesperson was recruited. Plans were completed to return the IPP magazine to print from July 2026. Wider marketing activity included new prospectuses and course materials, improved event communications, member videos, a refreshed AfPP logo and continued website improvements.

Commercial work finished £2,000 ahead of budget. AfPP consultants supported 48 hospital audit visits, and 20 hospitals completed accreditation or re-accreditation. New reporting templates and consultant training were introduced to improve consistency and protect the reputation of the AfPP Accreditation award.

At the end of the financial year, AfPP secured a contract worth £355,000 to audit and accredit 36 Nuffield Health hospitals over a period of just over two years. Additional consultants had been trained to support anticipated growth. The renewed Theatre Access Course supported 56 medical device representatives and generated £6,500.

AfPP also maintained representation in national groups and collaborations relating to patient safety, workforce policy and perioperative practice, and contributed to the revised Surgical First Assistant position statement.

Looking ahead, priorities included stabilising and growing paid membership, improving retention and personalisation, maintaining high-quality education and professional support, and strengthening commercial income in support of the charity's work. AD thanked the trustees, volunteers, contributors, consultants, partners, members and the HQ team for their commitment and achievements.

6. Financial Summary

Carol Livingstone (CL), Head of Finance, reported that the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 had been published on the AfPP website and were available to members. The accounts had been independently audited by Armstrong Watson. The audit report confirmed that the accounts gave a true and fair view of the charity's financial position and had been properly prepared in accordance with relevant UK accounting practice and standards.

Total income was £1.529 million and total expenditure was £1.526 million, producing a surplus of £3,000. This represented a favourable movement of approximately £78,000 against the original budgeted deficit of £75,000.

The favourable variance arose mainly from lower staffing, recruitment, travel and governance costs; a stronger-than-budgeted result from the Annual National Conference; reduced costs associated with other events; and higher investment income. Areas below budget included membership and publications income.

CL emphasised the contribution of AfPP Ltd's commercial activities, which generated resources that could be reinvested in member services, education, professional standards and patient safety. Cash balances remained strong. At 31 March 2026, the charity held free reserves of £580,000, which was above the minimum required by the Reserves Policy. The year ended with a surplus, healthy cash balances and no borrowing. The Board was satisfied with the charity's financial position.

No questions were raised following the financial presentation.

7. Receive the Annual Report and Accounts 2025/2026

The Annual Report and Accounts had been available online, and no comments had been received by post or email. No questions were raised at the meeting. Members voted by online poll, and 100% of votes cast were in favour of receiving and accepting the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025/2026. No proxy votes had been received.

8. Appoint the Auditors for 2026/27 and beyond

The Board recommended that Armstrong Watson continue to be appointed as the Association's auditors for 2026/2027 following its periodic review of external audit provision. Members voted by online poll, and 100% of votes were in favour of the appointment.

9. Officers/Trustees 2026/2027

OT reported that the current elected trustees were Maxine Page, Nadiene Deane, Will Windsor, Craig Griffiths and John Biddle. Lisa Nealen had stepped down in September 2026.

OT confirmed that he would continue as President until January 2027, when Maxine Page would succeed him. In accordance with the Articles, the Board had unanimously agreed that OT would then serve as Immediate Past President for one year.

The Board could also appoint up to four non-elected trustees, taking account of the skills and support required by the business strategy and the Board's skills profile. The current non-elected trustees were Georgia Headley, Thomas Roberts and Hana Shaw.

10. Any Other Business and Close

Mona Guckian-Fisher asked whether the new office premises would be named Daisy Ayris House. AD responded that this had not been considered to date but would be explored.

Mona Guckian-Fisher also commented that the digital Standards and Recommendations included in membership could not be downloaded and was therefore not useful to her. AD explained that download restrictions were intended to protect AfPP's copyright and intellectual property, but that a small proportion, approximately 5%, should be available to copy. Follow-up assistance would be provided outside the meeting.

There being no further questions or business, OT thanked members for attending and officially closed the 61st Annual General Meeting.